

Date: October 28, 2015
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Marengo Community High School
110 Franks Road, Marengo, IL 60152
Topic: US 20 at Marengo Road Phase I Study
Open House Public Hearing



Meeting Summary

The open house public hearing for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (Department) proposed improvements of US 20 at Marengo Road, Beck Road, and South Union Road was held on October 28, 2015 from 4 PM to 7 PM at the Marengo Community High School. The purpose of the hearing was to present the preferred alternative and obtain public input.

The hearing was an open house with Department and consultant team members available to answer questions. A continuous audio/visual presentation, exhibit boards, informational brochure, and comment forms were available at the hearing. The exhibit boards included a location map, project schedule, existing conditions, crash map, crash severity and types, level of service (LOS) description, planned/constructed roundabout locations in Illinois, breakdown of the land acquisition procedure, signage map for the preferred alternative, detour map, preferred alternative, and table top exhibit to the scale of miniaturized vehicles. A public forum was held from 6 PM to 7 PM, where the public was invited to publicly state their comments and have them transcribed by the court reporter.

Information from the public hearing, including the exhibits, presentation, brochure, and summary have been made available on the project website at www.US20atMarengo.com.

Comment Summary

The hearing was attended by 31 people. A total of ten (10) comments were received during the comment period. At the meeting attendees were given the option to take comment forms home and mail them back by November 18, 2015 to be included as part of the public record for this hearing. In addition to the comment forms, attendees were informed that comments can be submitted via the project website. A court reporter was present during the hearing and for the public forum. Attendees were encouraged to give verbal testimony. Two commenters chose to make a statement during the public forum. One of the public forum commenters also submitted a written comment.

Of the comments received, fifty percent (5) support the roundabout. Fifty percent (4) were not in support of the roundabout.

Other comments include:

- Concerned about safety within the roundabout and believe that more crashes will occur with unfamiliar drivers (4)
- Requested the public be educated on how to drive a roundabout (2)
- Roundabout will save many lives (1)
- Explain the project funding and where the funding originates (1)
- Concerned that large vehicle turning movements are not accommodated within the roundabout (1)
- Roundabout in Somerville, New Jersey doesn't work (1)
- Name the roundabout the "Five Corners Roundabout" (1)

Public Official and Agency Attendance

In addition to the general public, attendees were from local organizations and local government. These include Illinois Railway Museum, Coral Township, and McHenry County Board. Members of the CAG were also present. The agency attendees are listed below.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Kimberly Murphy, Consultant Studies Unit Head
Theresa Pelletier, Project Manager
Scott Czaplicki, Programming
Brenda Washington, Contract Compliance
Agar Shirani, Hydraulic Studies Unit
Mike Cullian, Land Acquisition
Marnie Hooghkirk, Area Programmer

McHenry County Department of Transportation

Wally Dittrich, Design Manager

Next Steps

The public comment period for the public hearing concluded on November 18, 2015. The Department is addressing the comments via newsletter, anticipated to be sent in December 2015. Public input received at the public hearing will be included in the project record for the Phase I study. The engineering and environmental studies are estimated to be completed by the end of 2015. After completion of Phase I, the Department will initiate the preparation of contract plans and land acquisition (Phase II), followed by construction (Phase III). This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2016-2021 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Our current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle years of our current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through our future annual legislative appropriations.